

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
Approved For Release 2000/05/24 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000200090154-0

EVENING 166,285

U.S. Mistreats Ex-Reds Who Give Testimony

By Robert Morris

Former Chief Counsel, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee

HARRY GOLD is an inmate of Lewisburg Prison. He has been imprisoned since 1950 for his role in the theft of atom bomb secrets. The sentence imposed on him by the presiding judge was 30 years.

These facts may not seem extraordinary unless you consider the United States in which we live in 1963. For despite all the Communist thefts of nuclear, scientific, industrial, military and diplomatic secrets, despite all the extensive policy perversion by direct and indirect Soviet agents here that has made Soviet power the domineering force it is today, despite the mountains of Communist propaganda exuded by thousands of Khrushchev's propagandists, Harry Gold is one of the few persons in jail today for ever working for the Soviet enemy.

But it was paradoxically enough, Gold's voluntary assistance to the United States government that led to his conviction. Unlike the thousands of successful Soviet agents here in the United States, Gold has been co-operating with the FBI, the congressional committees and those other agencies interested in blunting Soviet power.

I have visited Harry Gold on several occasions at Lewisburg in connection with my Senate work. He is a brilliant intellectual and he had given, at that time, more information on the Soviet conspiracy in the realm of nuclear and scientific secrets than anyone I know. His testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in Washington on May 3, 1956, was an illuminating performance that could have done much for the nation's security.

Meanwhile, leading characters in the Soviet espionage rings, Dr. Manhattan May, Klaus Fuchs and others—all of whom played a role in Soviet power by defying the investigating authorities—

ties—now are well placed and seemingly flourishing. The direct and indirect agents who were shown to have brought down Free China are particularly successful today. The literally scores of Communist leaders who were demonstrated by overwhelming evidence to have worked for the destruction of the United States, have had their convictions set aside and are now working for Soviet purposes, seemingly without interference.

The contrast between the treatment we accord the ex-Communist who helps us and the unregenerate Communist who defies those interested in stopping Communism is too lurid not to do damage.

Even Julius Scales' case exemplifies the point. He was convicted on charges of Communist party membership. He contended he broke with Communism and he may have—but he made the conspicuous point of refusing to co-operate with the committees. At

Christmas time he was accorded executive clemency.

This conspicuous contrast not only is working personal injustices. It is working to the detriment of the security of the United States.

When ex-Communists came forward in the late 1940s and early 1950s and gave their testimony on the dimensions of the massive Soviet penetration of our government we learned a great deal and were able to reverse some of our disastrous policies, at least briefly. The contributions of Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley, Louis Budenz, Dr. Bella V. Dodd and other courageous and dutiful witnesses gave us an insight into the workings of Soviet chicanery in the United States that proved most wholesome.

Today, you will notice few, if any, ex-Communists are coming forward. Many of those who have tried to break through and tell their story have been longer try.

The Povl Bang-Jensen case which ended so tragically in November 1959 was the straw in the wind. In late 1958 a cluster of Soviet diplomats, disillusioned by Khrushchev's grinding down the Hungarians, wanted asylum here in the United States.

They told Bang-Jensen, their selected intermediary, that their superiors in Moscow controlled the 38th floor, the heart of the Secretariat, of the United Nations, and had successfully infiltrated our foreign intelligence and offered to prove it. For the next seven or eight months the head of our CIA would not even see them.

I can see very distressing security events taking place today. For example, in the middle 1950s a State Department official who was in a particularly sensitive position was called before the Senate investigating committee. He had been close to one of the more conspicuous Soviet spies in this country and all in all his testimony, while not

conclusive, was so disturbing to State Department officials that he was given a remote post to get him out of the way. The State Department officials concerned with security were against this solution, warning that he would be back at a later time in another sensitive spot. But compromise prevailed.

I have recently noticed that this same official has now come back from this exile and had a key role in the U.N. conquest of Katanga.

Harry Gold became eligible for parole on October 22, 1960. He has been denied parole three times, on the application by his lawyer, John D. Hamilton, the well-known Philadelphia attorney. Gold is now a valuable, knowledgeable United States citizen. This is an area where clemency would not only be just but would be a move to break up that double standard that hangs over every people's security.